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Kalyan Mantaps refuse to toe the Govt. line

- **Choultry Owners Association holds meeting in city**
- **Decides to wait for written order to refund advance amount**

Mysuru, June 13 (RK&BCT)- After receiving several complaints of wedding hall owners not refunding the money even after the cancellation of scheduled wedding dates owing to lockdown, the State Government has directed all such hall owners to immediately refund the money to those who seek it.

"Many people have started complaining that hall owners are insisting on rescheduling of dates and are not willing to refund the money. The owners are bound to refund the money," Revenue Minister R. Ashok had told reporters a couple of days back.

Following the Minister's directive, Choultry owners of Mysuru held a meeting at Sindhoora Convention Hall this morning and said that it will be difficult to refund the advance money taken from marriage parties when they (Choultry owners) themselves are suffering huge losses.

"Revenue Minister Ashok has told us orally to refund the advance amount. But we have decided to wait for a written order from the Government and examine it detail to take a decision. We need to see on what parameters the Government will ask us to refund the money when we are suffering losses and are staring at uncertain future," K.R. Sathyanarayana, President of Mysuru Kalyan Mantap Owners Association, told *Star of Mysore*.

Families of couples who had booked Choultries have complained to the Government that many Choultry owners and managements are refusing to refund the advance money that ranges from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 1.50 lakh depending on the Choultry popularity.

Some aggrieved parties approached Minster Ashok to take action against such wedding hall owners. They said that only a few are thinking of rescheduling the dates, while several of them are not certain of any date and are asking for the refund.

"The hall owners have no right to keep the money when they are not offering any service. Keeping money without any service is illegal", said Ashok.

(See MANTAPS on page 6)

Citizens can pay Property Tax at KarnatakaOne Centres too

Mysuru, June 13 (RK & DM) - The long wait of residents of the city for more centres to pay their annual Property Tax to the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) seems to have ended as KarnatakaOne Centres (formerly MysoreOne Centres) in the city have started collection of Property Tax from citizens, starting from June 9, 2020.

Apart from this, the MCC has also facilitated the citizens to make online payment of property tax with the issuance of Property Identification (PID) Number.

The KarnatakaOne Centres are located in Gokulam (Ph: 0821-2411490), Ramakrishnanagar (0821-2460727), Nazarbad (0821-2430103), Seshadri Iyer Road(0821-2421042), Jayanagar (Krishnamurthypuram: 0821-2330042) and Siddhartha Layout (0821-2470046).

All the six Centres have started collecting Property Tax from residents since June 9 and will be open from Monday through Saturday, according to the Directorate of Electronic Delivery of Citizen Services (EDCS).

Apart from payment of Property Tax, the citizens can also pay their utilities bills such as electricity and water bills, mobile phone and landline phone bills in these centres, as usual. Today, many citizens were seen visiting these Centres for payment of their property tax, with the MCC offering 5 percent rebate till July 31, 2020.

MGP's online meeting on property tax tomorrow

Mysuru, June 13- The monthly meeting of Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) will be held on Sunday (June 14) at 4 pm online.

P. Babu, Assistant Revenue Officer, MCC, will interact with the public on "Property Tax for the year 2020-21".

Members of the public who are interested in participating in the meeting are requested to send an e-mail to: mygrapa@gmail.com before 2 pm tomorrow. They will be sent information which will enable them to participate in the meeting online.

For details contact Ph; 0821-2515150 or Mob: 94488-55199, according to a press release from MGP Secretary.

Govt. Guest House Arch Gate conservation works resume

Iron grills to be installed to secure the heritage structure

Mysuru, June 13 (RK&DM)- The works on conserving the over a century-old Heritage Arch at the Northern Gate of Government Guest House in Nazarbad which was abruptly stopped due to COVID-19 lockdown has now resumed.

As the Arch comes in the way of road widening works (Abba Road from Five Lights Circle to Hyder Ali Road into a six-lane road), Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Zone-7 officials, taking note of the damages that the motorists and the road works personnel may cause to the

Arch, decided to install iron grills all around the Arch in order to secure it.

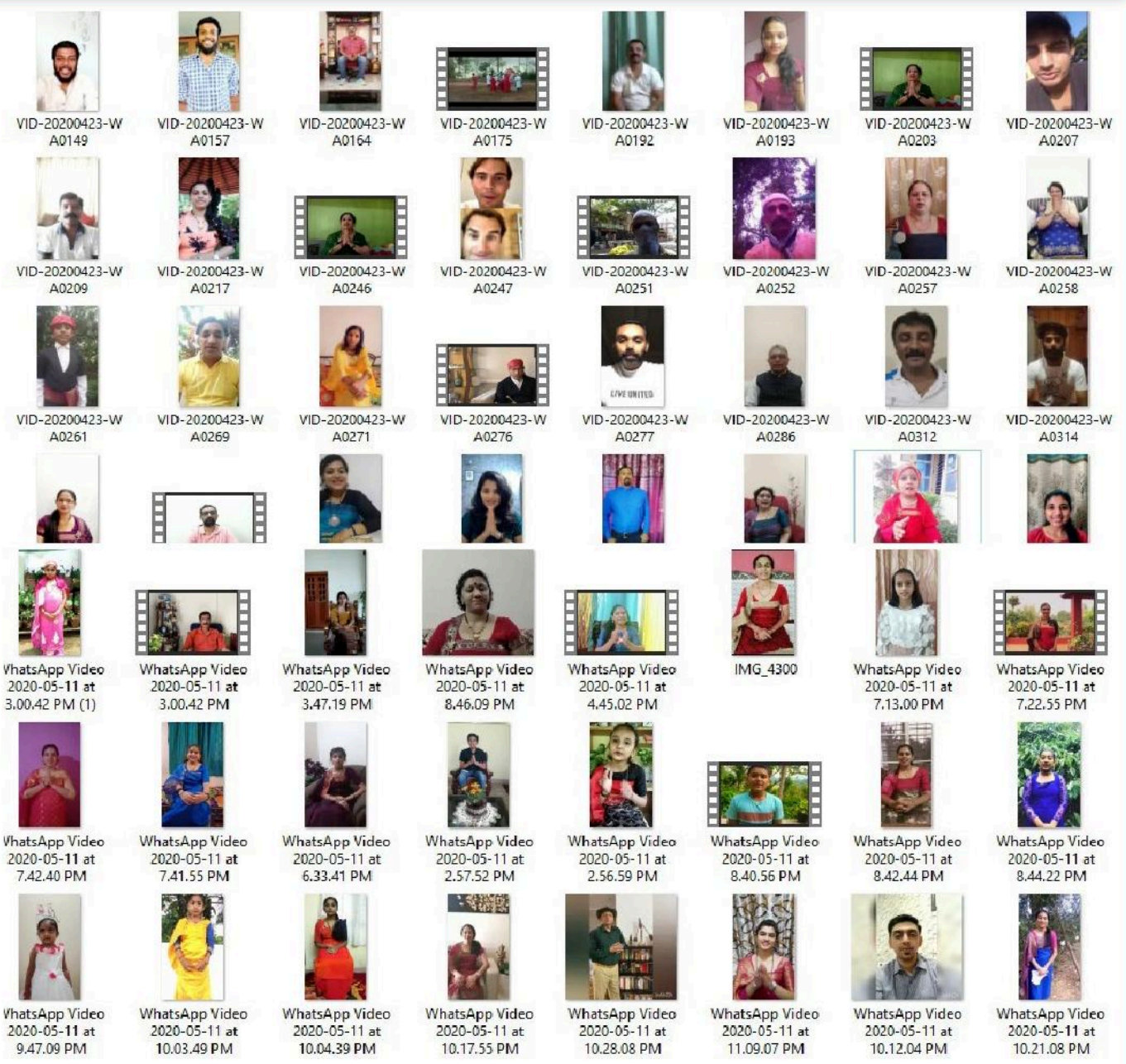
(See GUEST HOUSE on page 6)

STAR PUNCH

By Satish Acharya

Online literary activities keep Kodavas busy during lockdown

'Kodava Sahitya Changole' crosses 3,000 recordings; aims to touch 5,000 & more



By B.C. Thimmaiah

Mysuru, June 13- The experience of lockdown with all the accompanying emotions of fear, loneliness and uncertainty may have resulted in the birth of a new genre — lockdown literature. Isolation in times of Coronavirus pandemic has made some people depressed while others have turned it into a sabbatical to learn new things and experiment with new things.

The Bangalore Kodava Samaja Youth Council has just done that. Experimenting. And the result is a tremendous success. The Youth Council started 'Kodava Sahitya Changole' (a string of Kodava literature or a series) during lockdown where Kodava people, crossing geographical boundaries, had to record pieces from Kodava literature and post it on social media. So popular the 'Changole' is that it has crossed 3,000 episodes now and well on its way to reach 5,000. In the 'Changole' Kodava youth, children, women and elders are getting together in the virtual world to save their rich heritage and culture. The culture, literature, festival, folk and practices that were hidden in books, pamphlets and in the minds of the community elders have now come in the open and it is there for everyone to see and learn through videos posted in various social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram.

Aspects of tradition highlighted

Apart from individuals, there are families that have taken part in the 'Changole' where family elders are literally searching books and literature for suitable pieces to be shared among the community. Interestingly, brevity is a hallmark of all the episodes in the 'Changole' as people do not have the time or patience to see the entire video.

People have recorded interesting tales of their village, family elders, Kodava clan, Kodava Vaalaga, Kodava dance, rituals, Kodava marriage, child-naming, traditions, customs and also practices and more importantly festivals of villages. Each village in Kodagu has a deity and festivals are held every year to appease the deity and pray for the welfare of the villagers. This unique aspect was highlighted in many videos.

Crossing geographical barriers

Apart from community members living in Kodagu who have shot the videos in the background of their houses, gardens, coffee estates, fields and mountains, many people living in cities and abroad too have made videos and have circulated. Even Kodava youth from the Armed Forces have recorded and posted videos.

The initiative was started by Bangalore Kodava Samaja Youth Council President Chokanda Sooraj Somaiah during the end of March when the lockdown was announced. After recording his piece of literature, he nominated three members who in turn nominated nine members (three each) and the popularity spread. Like that, the 'Changole' has now crossed 3,000 episodes and is on the way to touch 5,000.

Suggestions to the community

Not only reciting or reading pieces of select literature taken from the novels, short stories, plays and Kodava theatre, Kodava songs and poetry collections, many community members, especially the Kodava youths who are involved in social work and community-building activities took the opportunity to give advice to the community to practice Kodava customs and pass them on to the younger generations.

Suggestions were given on maintaining the cultural and linguistic spirit and to further the cause of 'Kodavaaame' (Kodava pride and community well-being) without individually targeting anyone. Those were general pieces of advice which would help the community to grow and prosper and at the same time maintain the cultural and community spirit.

"We have got tremendous response from toddlers to nonagenarians (from a year-old baby to 94-year old men and women). Before the 'Kodava Sahitya Changole', we came up with something called 'Kodava Arivole' or Kodava dictionary where words and proverbs were explained and shared. Next came 'Nangada Shammi Bavo' (our brother-in-law Shammi) where an attempt was made to further the literary cause with appealing caricature," says Chokanda Sooraj Somaiah.

Promoting language, culture

"The initiative was to kill boredom and have some activity that will promote the language, culture, literary giants of Kodagu and also village festival. It was aimed at developing a bond between the community members and family members. Many of the videos show youths narrating stories about their families, their family members served or serving in Defence Forces and their family members who have attained national and international fame," he told *Star of Mysore*.

"Kodava culture and literature can grow with such initiatives and will bring to light the forgotten community heroes. We Kodavas have unique culture which is distinct. Unfortunately, this is forgotten, neglected or kept aside by our own people. The Youth Council has made an attempt to reach out to the community and through 'Kodava Sahitya Changole', we have sent a message on preserving our culture, family ties and community bonding," Sooraj said and added that all the videos would be recorded and documented for future reference.

Catches C.T. Ravi's attention

Interestingly, these videos and its immense popularity has caught the attention of Kannada and Culture Minister C.T. Ravi and the Minister too has joined the bandwagon by reciting a poem by Haradasa Appacha Kavi. Even former Minister Shobha Karandlaje has recited a literary piece. Like this, many non-Kodava scholars and researchers have appreciated the initiative and spoken highly about Kodava literature, men in the Armed Forces and the ubiquity of Kodava hockey players.

"The Bangalore Kodava Samaja President Mukkatira T. Nanaiah, Vice- President Mallengada Meera Jalaja Kumar, Secretary Chiriyapanda S. Suresh Nanjappa, Joint Secretary Kokkalera T. Kuttappa, all other office-bearers and committee members have helped and supported the 'Changole' initiative," Sooraj added.

VOICE OF THE READER

Traffic rule violators on the rise

Sir,

With the Mysuru City Police busy in monitoring activities connected to COVID-19, the undisciplined motorists are having a heyday on Mysuru roads now.

Two-wheelers are happily riding without helmets, resting their mobile phones on their shoulders and talking, riding on the wrong sides of both one-way and two-way roads, jumping signals and risking other motorists.

Now four-wheelers have joined this bandwagon of traffic rule violators by talking and texting using their mobile phones while driving and by not wearing their seat belts.

Over a period of time, Mysuru City Traffic Police managed to inculcate some sort of discipline to the compulsive traffic rule violators, but now with their COVID-19 duty, looks like they have to re-start their exercise afresh to check violations.

Hope our City Traffic Police will succeed in making the undisciplined traffic rule violators, again disciplined and make Mysuru roads safe for other road-users.

— K. Chandrahas
on e-mail
Mysuru
12.6.2020

CPI(M) demands re-opening of factories

Seeks monthly financial aid of Rs.7,000 to all workers for six months

Mysuru, June 13 (PM)- Days after lockdown curbs were relaxed and industries were permitted to re-start manufacturing activities, the CPI-M (Communist Party of India-Marxist) has urged the Government to re-open shut factories and ensure job security to all those who were employed with them in the pre-lockdown period.

Addressing a press meet at Patrakartara Bhavan here on Wednesday, CPI(M) District Secretary K. Basavaraj said that factories must not terminate employees under the pretext of lockdown. Stating that the Union Government has issued an order asking factories not to cut the salaries of employees, he alleged that some factories have intentionally shutdown citing lockdown. Pointing out that hundreds of employees have been left jobless as some establishments in Mysuru and Nanjangud were suddenly shutdown, Basavaraj called for the District Administration's intervention for re-opening them.

Claiming that over 50,000 contract workers in Mysuru district have lost jobs due to COVID lockdown, he urged the District Administration and the Labour Dept. to ensure that the shutdown factories are re-opened and that all the workers are paid wages in full for the lockdown period.

Stating that Mysuru has over 12,000 hotel employees and out of them only 20% are given job now, he accused owners, who have enjoyed profits for years, are claiming lockdown as a reason to deduct salaries.

Maintaining that the Rs. 20 lakh crore stimulus package announced by PM Narendra Modi is unrealistic, he alleged that the package seems to have considered only the supply part while ignoring the demand part. Accusing the Union Government of making moves to privatise even the agriculture sector, Basavaraj urged the Government to announce a package wherein every worker in the country gets a financial aid of Rs. 7,000 per month for six months.

CPI(M) office-bearers L. Jagannath, Jagadish Surya and Shashikumar were present during the press meet.

Karnataka asked to release June, July quota of Cauvery water to TN

CWMA meet adjourned after Tamil Nadu resists Karnataka's bid to discuss Mekedatu

New Delhi, June 13 (UNI)- The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) has asked Karnataka to release June and July quota of water to Tamil Nadu (TN).

The CWMA meeting presided over by Central Water Commission in-charge Chairman R.K. Jain asked Karnataka to release 9.19 tmcft water in June and 31.23 tmcft in July to Tamil Nadu as per the quota fixed by the Supreme Court.

The meeting was attended by Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala officials through video-conference. Normally, the panel meets before the onset of monsoon to decide the quantum of water to be released by Karnataka to the lower riparian State. Meanwhile, the CWMA has adjourned its sixth meeting, after Tamil Nadu strongly opposed Karnataka's attempt to discuss the Mekedatu dam issue. Karnataka plans to build a balancing reservoir at Mekedatu in Kanakapura taluk to store excess water.

However, Tamil Nadu has opposed it citing that the proposed reservoir would impound the uncontrolled intermediate flows between KRS, Kabini and Biligundlu as it would deprive Tamil Nadu of monthly flows for irrigation in the crucial months from June to September.

Intl. Level Crossing Awareness Day

International Level Crossing Awareness Week
11th June 2020
LIFE IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN TIME !
Safety Organisation
South Western Railway-Mysuru Division

Mysuru, June 13- The South Western Railway (SWR), Mysuru Division, celebrated International Level Crossing Awareness Day on June 11 to raise awareness about the dangers associated with the road/rail interfaces (level crossings).

T. Venkateshwara Rao, Divisional Safety Officer along with staff conducted awareness campaign at Level Crossing near Holalkere and counselled road-users regarding preventive measures to be followed to avoid unusual incidents and also to obey all Railway warning and signals. He cautioned road-users to always use designated Railway Crossings to protect themselves, other users and people travelling by train and help to reduce track tragedies.

Similar activities were carried throughout the Division by staff of safety organisation of Railway, according to a press release from Priya Shetty, Divisional Commercial Manager and PRO, SWR, Mysuru Division.

No power supply on Sunday

Mysuru, June 13- As Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) will be taking up emergency maintenance works at Hebbal and Metagalli Power Supply Centres coming under V.V. Mohalla Division tomorrow (June 14) from 10 am to 5 pm, power supply will be disrupted in the following areas:

Hebbal and surrounding areas, Kumbarakoppal, Toll Gate, Vani Vilas Layout, Mahadeshwara Layout, Subhash Nagar, Surya Bakery, Vijayanagar, Railway Layout, Abhishek Circle, Madegowda Circle, M.G. Koppal, Outer Ring Road, Hampi Circle, KIADB Industrial Housing Layout, L&T factory surrounding area and Rane Madras surrounding areas.

66/1 KV Metagalli Power Supply Centre: Hebbal Industrial Area, Metagalli, Brindavan Layout, Lokanayaka Nagar, Jayadeva Nagar, B.M. Sri Nagar, Hebbal Outer Ring Road, HPCL Gas Plant surroundings, Hebbal 1st, 2nd and 3rd Stages, Subramanya Nagar, Basavanagudi, SBM Bank surroundings, Hebbal Colony, Hebbal Main Road, Lakshmikanta Nagar, Sankranti Circle, Golden Bakery, KIADB Layout, Mayura Circle, Cauvery Circle, Military Quarters, RBI, Vikrant Main Plant and Shivamogga Silks and surrounding areas.

Belagola Industrial Area, KRS Road, Bhairaveshwara Nagar, Basaveshwara Nagar, Metagalli Industrial Area and surrounding areas, according to a press release from V.V. Mohalla Division Executive Engineer.

Digital Music Concert tomorrow

Mysuru, June 13- A Karnatak Music Concert by violinist Dr. Jyotsna Srikanth has been organised online tomorrow (June 14) at 9.30 pm.

The Digital Concert will be live streamed on Shaale Live. For tickets, visit: https://shaale.com/live/jscarnaticlive

She will be accompanied on mridanga by Vinod Shyaam Anoor and on kanjira by Sunaad Anoor.

Calling entrepreneurs

Mysuru, June 13- The Karnataka Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Kuvempunagar, has invited applications from entrepreneurs interested in setting up Micro Industries/ service units in rural areas of the District with the help of Bank loans, under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

The interested entrepreneurs can apply along with necessary documents through the website: www.kvic.org. For details, call Ph:0821-2566428.

SUCI demands bus pass to domestic workers

Mysuru, June 13- Urging the State Government to provide bus pass facility to house maids /domestic workers, the activists of Socialist Unity Centre of India (SUCI-Communist) submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister through Officers of Labour Department.

Over 25 maid servants together with members of SUCI, who met the officials said, "Following Coronavirus pandemic and lockdown, we are facing financial difficulties. Before lockdown, we used to get bus pass facility. Lockdown has been relaxed now, but still Transport Department is not issuing bus passes because of which we are having transportation issues as we have to travel to distant places in the city." They urged CM Yediyurappa to issue an order to provide bus pass facility to maid servants.

Blood Donation Camp on June 14

Mysuru, June 13- JCI Mysore Royal City and Raktdaan Mahadaan Gowbhakth Sangathan, Mysuru, have jointly organised a blood donation camp to mark International Blood Donor's Day on June 14 from 8 am to 2 pm at Jeevdhara Blood Bank on Sayyaji Rao Road in city.

For registration to donate blood, contact Devendra Parihariya on Mob: 81231-60978 or J.C. Ananth Jain on Mob: 98863-10666.

Tension at Rammanahalli as villagers protest re-opening of liquor shop

Mysuru, June 13 (RK&DM)- Tension gripped Rammanahalli village in the outskirts of the city this morning as hundreds of enraged villagers attempted to vandalise a liquor shop which suddenly re-opened this morning despite their severe opposition.

One H. Kalleshi of Davanagere had opened a liquor shop at Rammanahalli, located off Bannur road, about 6 months ago after taking a building owned by one Naga of the village, on rent. But due to severe opposition from the villagers, the shop had shut down a few days later. However, following relaxation in lockdown curbs, the Liquor Shop Manager Veeranna, reportedly with support from some localites, re-opened the shop at about 8 am this morning, when hundreds of villagers gathered in front of the shop and forced the closure of the wine store.

The irate villagers also allegedly manhandled Veeranna and vandalised the shop's name board, hoardings and barricades nearby.

Mysuru South Police rushed to the village and tried to calm down the situation. Excise officials led by Inspector Prema too visited the village and tried to convince the villagers, who are persisting with their demand for cancellation of the Excise Licence and permanent closure of the shop.

Missing Mysuru woman found dead in River Kapila

Mysuru, June 13 - The body of **Ganga** (66), wife of retired Principal Parameshwarappa and a resident of J.P. Nagar, who was reported missing from June 7, was found in River Kapila.

She is said to have left her house after a petty quarrel. As searching for her in their relatives and friends' house turned futile, Parameshwarappa had lodged a missing complaint at Vidyaranyapuram Police Station.

Police had then circulated the news of the missing woman across all the Police Stations in the State. Also, Parameshwarappa had placed advertisements in newspapers about his missing wife. The couple's daughter is in America and son is a software engineer working at a private company in Bengaluru, according to Police sources.

Even as the search was on, Ganga's body was found yesterday in River Kapila near Nanjangud bridge. Nanjangud Police have registered a case of unnatural death.

Two guest lecturers of same college end lives

Financial woes, depression during lockdown suspected

Kokila

Suresh

Mysuru, June 13 (Nagaiah)- During lockdown period, within a span of a month, two guest lecturers of a Government Degree College in Malavalli taluk here, have ended their lives. Financial problems and depression that resulted out of lockdown woes are suspected to be the cause of their extreme step.

The deceased are Kokila (35), a guest lecturer of the Commerce stream and Suresh (29) of History Department of the same college. While Kokila ended her life by hanging on May 11, Suresh had died of self-immolation on June 4.

It is said that they were disappointed about not getting a Government job. As the Government had failed to release the salary since several months, they were facing financial problems, it is said.

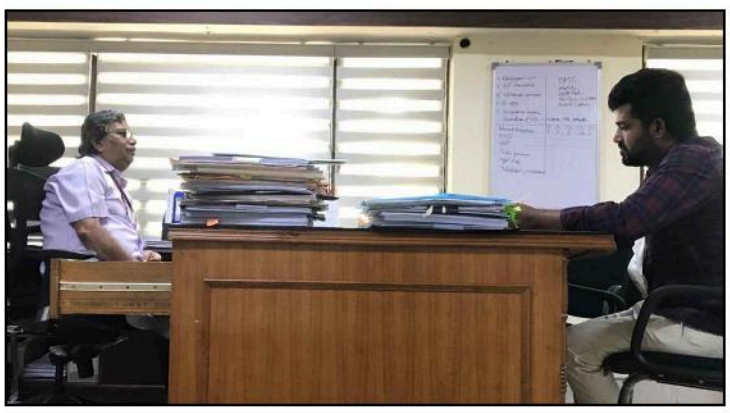
Principal K.T. Venkatesh said, "Both lecturers were working in the College since three years. They were conducting online classes for students during lockdown. They might have ended their lives out of depression."

Kokila's sister has lodged a complaint at K.M. Doddi Police Station stating that Kokila committed suicide due to depression. Mandya Rural Police have registered a case of unnatural death in connection with Suresh's suicide.

Suresh, who dreamt of a Government job, was under depression, according to his family members.

"Many guest lecturers are suffering from depression as they have no job security. Government should come in aid of guest lecturers," urged Rajya Shaikshanika Diksuchi mattu Sudharana Samiti President Dr. Sudhakar Hosalli.

Speed up works on Bantwal-Bengaluru National Highway-275: MP urges Centre



Mysuru, June 13 (BCT)- Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha has urged the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to expedite the two road works on Bantwal-Bengaluru National Highway-275 that passes through Mysuru and Kodagu.

The MP has apprised I.K. Pandey, Director General (Road Development) and Special Secretary to Government of India (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways) that the two works have been initiated on the stretch without calling tenders as the works have to be completed before the arrival of monsoon, particularly in Kodagu.

Meeting Pandey at his office early this week, Pratap Simha urged him to allow the works to continue and the status quo maintained with regard to strengthening of road from 93.200 km to 132.34 km of NH-275, Bantwal-Bengaluru section at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.73 crore and construction of retaining wall, RCC drains and road safety works in Sampaje Ghat section (Western Ghats) in selected reaches from 71.60 km to 110.00 km of NH-275 with an estimated cost of Rs. 47.27 crore.

In the beginning of this year, tenders were invited for 2 works excluding GST as per the direction from the Ministry. The works have been already processed and are at stage of work allocation. These works are of very urgent nature and to be taken up immediately, especially the works on Sampaje Ghat Section. "This section receives heavy rain every year and in the last two years this section received heavy rain resulting in heavy damages. As a result, the road was closed during monsoon," Simha has told Pandey.

As there are every possibilities of receiving heavy rain and landslips this year too, road improvements on this section has to be taken-up immediately before monsoon, failing which the NHAI would face severe problem for maintenance of these roads and also cause difficulties to the commuters, Simha has stated.

Re-inviting tenders for the works will consume minimum of 120 days and by the time of awarding the work, monsoon will be vigorous. Hence it may not be possible to achieve progress till the end of this year. Also, the delay in implementing these projects may result in further damages to the existing Highways due to monsoon and the Department may be forced to close the Sampaje Ghat section for traffic, inconveniencing the commuters, Simha told Pandey.

Also, for the two works, the bids received are below the sanctioned estimated rate, which is advantageous to the Government. In case of re-tendering, if tenders are received with a premium, there are possibilities of audit objection due to extra financial implication. And there are chances of the lowest bidders approaching the Court. This may hamper further processing of these works, the MP stated and has urged Pandey to expedite the road works to save costs and also benefit the commuters.

Youth working as bonded labourer rescued

Mandya, June 13 (Nagaiah&KS) – A 23-year-old youth, who was allegedly forced to work as a bonded labourer at a chicken meat stall for the interest amount to the loan he had taken, has been rescued by the taluk officials at Bellur Cross in Nagamangala on Wednesday evening.

The youth who was rescued belonged to Budududuke Colony in Nagamangala taluk and the person who is accused of keeping him as a bonded labourer is Shekar, owner of a chicken stall on Bellur Road in Bellur Cross.

The youth had taken Rs. 40,000 loan and as he was unable to pay the interest, he was working as a bonded labourer since eight years. Unable to bear the torture, the youth had approached the members of Jeevana Jyothi organisation for help following which the organisation lodged a complaint with the district administration.

Based on the complaint and following instructions from Assistant Commissioner (AC) Shylaja, Tahsildar Kareem Ahmed, Taluk Panchayat (TP) Executive Officer Anantharaju, Labour Inspector Mahesh, Social Welfare Department's Rajashekar and Manjunath raided the chicken stall on Wednesday evening, conducted an inspection and rescued the youth.

Following a complaint from Manjunath, Bellur Police have registered a case.

Kurubarahalli Survey No.4 & Alanahalli Survey No.41

MLA Ramdas hiding facts and misleading people: Congress

Mysuru, June 13 (RKB&BCT)- The Kurubarahalli Survey No.4 land row that has been lingering for over five years is back in news. Days after Krishnaraja MLA S.A. Ramdas claiming that all hurdles for the vexed land issue have been cleared and even there is no case pending in the Court of Law, the Congress Party has ridiculed Ramdas for spreading lies and taking people for a ride when nothing has happened in the ground level.

The Party has given a deadline of one month for the State Government to remove 'B-Kharab' (Government land) classification of lands under Kurubarahalli Survey No.4 and Alanahalli Survey No. 41 and come to the rescue of over 25,000 property owners of Siddhartha Layout, Alanahalli, J.C. Nagar, K.C. Layout and Income Tax Layout.

"If the deadlock is not resolved within 30 days, Congress activists will stage protest in front of the houses of Ramdas and former BJP MLC G. Madhusudan. Ramdas is hiding facts and misleading people for cheap publicity," said Congress Spokesperson M. Lakshman.

Ramdas had stated that over 205.09 acres of Survey No. 4, 105 acres of K.C. Layout and 44.20 acres of J.C. Layout (354.29 acres) will be freed from B-Kharab classification and will be handed over to MUDA free of cost and the issue will be sorted out by the end of this month.

Bunch of lies

Addressing a press confe-rence at Congress Office in city yesterday, Karnataka Pra-desh Congress Committee Spokes-person Lakshman targeted Ramdas for lying to the people. "The Cabinet meeting held on Thursday resolved that all the B-Kharab lands must remain as B-Kharab lands across the State. Still Ramdas and BJP leader B.P. Manjunath and their party followers have wrongly claimed that the Kurubarahalli and other areas will be free from B-Kharab classification. Ramdas has shown the unofficial remarks made by Urban Development Under-Secretary to Revenue Department Under-Secretary as a proof to justify his claims. This is nothing but a joke on the people who have been suffering since years," he said.

"On May 16, Ramdas had written a letter to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on freeing the 354.29 acres from B-Kharab classification and the CM had made a file noting to Revenue Department Under-Secretary to examine the facts and settle the issue. This is just an unofficial file noting which is not an official order. What Ramdas is saying is a bunch of lies," Lakshman berated.

"Let Ramdas, Madhusudan and other BJP leaders come for an open discussion on K.R. Constituency and there we can discuss on various issues and it will become clear on who is telling lies and who has done sincere work," he added.

Brother of Ramdas owned lands

The problem of B-Kharab cla-ssification was started when BJP was in power and when the then Mysuru Deputy Commissioner P.S. Vastrad passed an order to this effect and declared Kurubarahalli Survey No.4 and Alanahalli Survey Number 41 as B-Kharab. "Then, the brother of MLA Ramdas owned lands worth crores of rupees at the foot of Chamundi Hill. Though this was a Government land, Ramdas exerted pressure on the BJP Government and the Mysuru DC and the lands were declared as private. This was objected to by the then MLC G. Madhusudan," Lakshman said.

"Madhusudan held 20 press conferences then and kicked up a storm. He also raised the issue in the Upper House and drew the attention of the Government. As a result of this, the then Revenue Minister K.S. Eshwarappa directed the Mysuru DC to declare Kurubarahalli Survey No.4 and Alanahalli Survey Number 41 as B-Kharab. Later, 74 cases were filed in Karnataka High Court and three were filed in Supreme Court," he revealed.

After Siddharamaiah came to power, he tried his best to save the residents and his Cabinet decided to drop the B-Kharab classification. "Both the Supreme Court and the High Court were informed about the Cabinet decision through the Advocate General. Now the present BJP Government has to just pass an order to remove the B-Kharab classification and the order has not been passed yet. Ramdas has lied to the people and misled them," Lakshman said.

KPCC Spokesperson Manjula Manasa, City Congress President R. Murthy, General Secretary M. Shivanna and others were present at the press meet.

'I have just brought the present status before people'

MLA Ramdas

Mysuru, June 13 (RKB &BCT)- Reacting to the Congress allegation, MLA Ramdas said that he had revealed the present status of the B-Kharab classification from the lands coming under Kurubarahalli Survey No.4 and Alanahalli Survey Number 41.

"Nowhere have I stated that the order has been passed. Since two years, despite former CM Siddharamaiah passing a Cabinet order, nothing had moved and no efforts were made to resolve the deadlock. Now things are moving in the right direction and I have just said that," Ramdas said, reacting to Congress Spokesperson M. Lakshman's statement.

"Lakshman has said that I wanted to save my and my brother's properties. This has surprised me. If Lakshman proves his allegation, I will take political retirement," Ramdas said and added that by clearing the hurdles in Kurubarahalli Survey No.4 and Alanahalli Survey Number 41, he has to thank his voters who have made him an MLA.

The MLA has welcomed Lakshman's call for an open debate on the issue. "Let Lakshman too try and solve the problems faced by over 25,000 residents and before making an allegation, he must get his facts right. Let him come with documents and then prove the allegations," the MLA said.

All four from State elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha

Bengaluru, June 13 (KMS& DM) - JD(S) Supremo and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, veteran Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge and BJP candidates Eranna Kadadi and Ashok Gasti have been elected unopposed to the four vacant Rajya Sabha (RS) seats from the State.

Yesterday was the last day for the withdrawal of nomination papers for the RS poll that was scheduled to take place on June 19. As nobody else other than these four candidates remained in the fray, all of them were declared elected unopposed on Friday. Although an independent candidate had filed nomination paper, it was rejected on the grounds that no MLA had proposed his candidature.

Vidhana Sabha Secretary M.K. Vishalakshi, who was also the Electoral Officer, officially declared that H.D. Deve Gowda (JD-S), Mallikarjun Kharge(Congress), Eranna Kadadi and Ashok Gasti (both BJP) have been elected unopposed to the RS.

Deve Gowda *Kharge* *Eranna Kadadi* *Ashok Gasti*

The four seats had fallen vacant after the completion of the tenure of Prabhakar Kore of BJP, Kupendra Reddy of JD(S) and B.K. Hariprasad and M.V. Rajeev Gowda of the Congress.

While Kharge, Kadadi and Gasti are entering the RS for the first time, Deve Gowda is entering the Upper House for the second time, as earlier he was a member of the House when he was the Prime Minister.

Free bus travel for SSLC, PUC students appearing for exam

Mysuru, June 13- Coming to the aid of students during COVID-19 lockdown, the KSRTC has allowed free travel in buses run by it for students appearing for the coming SSLC and PUC exams.

KSRTC Managing Director Shivayogi Kalasad, in a circular issued on Friday said that the SSLC exam is scheduled to take place from June 25 to July 4 and the pending PUC exam on June 18. The students appearing for the exams will be allowed to travel for free (to and fro) in KSRTC buses from their place of stay to the exam centre on all dates of the exam. The students can produce their Hall ticket to avail free travel. Also the KSRTC staff has been directed to stop buses at all points as requested by the students, the circular said.

Kalyan Mantaps refuse to toe the Govt. line

(Cotinued from page 1)

He even warned the Choultry owners that action under the Disaster Management Act would be taken against errant owners of wedding halls and convention centres if they don't refund the full amount or at least deduct the tax amount and then refund.

There are over 85 Choultries in Mysuru with 60 of them located within the city limits. Due to lockdown, 60 percent of the people who had planned weddings in March, April and May have cancelled the functions and have performed small ceremonies at their homes. "Instead of arbitrarily ordering us to refund the advance money, the State Government must come to our rescue. The last three months have been terrible for us with no business and with the Government restrictions following COVID-19 pandemic, we will be out of business for the next one year. How is it possible for us to survive," Sathyanarayana asked.

As salaries for employees and workers, security guards, water tax, maintenance, electricity, GST, Income Tax and bank loan instalments all come up to huge expenditure, the Government must announce a financial package, he demanded.

Secretary of Mysuru Kalyana Mantapa Owners Association Venkatesh, Treasurer Manoj Kumar, Choultry owners Shivanna, Shashidhar, Chandrashekar, Mallinath and others attended the meeting.

Ambari Convention Hall inauguration tomorrow

Shivakumar, Sweet Mahesh and Mahadevu.

Mysuru, June 13- An ultra-modern 'Ambari Convention Hall' that suits the heritage character of Mysuru city is ready for inauguration tomorrow (June 14). It has all the modern facilities and will be a dream destination of an event manager and the persons who conduct auspicious events.

Apart from its hallmark facilities, the entire convention hall is plastic-free and the management has plans to maintain the plastic-free status even in the future when lots of functions are held. Once open to public, the convention hall will be the second biggest centralised air-conditioned hall.

Over 600 people can sit in the hall at any given point of time and 450 people can be seated at one time in the dining hall. There are over 13 fully furnished rooms including the rooms for the bride and the bridegroom and Ambari is equipped with all utensils that can cook food for over 2,000 people and there is a perennial supply of clean water.

There is ample space for parking and all precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus.

The convention hall owned by 'Sweet' Mahesh of Ambari Chits Private Limited will be inaugurated in a simple event. MPs V. Sreenivasa Prasad, Pratap Simha, MLAs S.A. Ramdas, G.T. Devegowda, L. Nagendra, Anil Chikkamadu, H.P. Manjunath and C.S. Niranjan Kumar, DCP Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda and ACB SP Rashmi will be the guests.

'Sweet' Mahesh's brother Shivakumar has established the famed Mahalakshmi Sweets catering to the land's sweet tooth and another brother Mahadevu has established Anagha Hospital and is serving the people. These three brothers have been involved in social service too. They have helped the poor and migrant population during the lockdown.

Govt. Guest House Arch Gate conservation works resume

(Cotinued from page 1)

Officials from the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage and members of the District Heritage Expert Committee inspected the spot and later gave the grill design to the MCC authorities, taking into consideration the risk factors if the Arch stands directly exposed to vehicular movement.

Based on this design, the MCC officials are erecting grills of 2 metre height all around the Arch, upon a concrete base of one-and-a-half feet thickness. The earth digging work for the construction of concrete base began in January. But some days later, the works came to an abrupt halt due to lockdown.

MCC Zone-7 Development Officer Mahesh told 'Star of Mysore' that the works on the construction of concrete bed has resumed and all the works, including erection of grills will be so executed that all the heritage characteristics of the Arch will be retained in totality as advised by experts and that no damage will be done to the Arch during the works.

With works in progress, the jurisdictional Devaraja Traffic Police Inspector Muniyappa and staff and MCC officials visited the spot this morning and conducted a review of traffic visibility and pedestrian safety on the stretch of the busy B.N. Road.

This is the heritage North Gate Arch, the entrance arch to the famed more than 150-year-old Government Guest House. With the grant from the State Finance Commission (SFC) the MCC has taken up the widening and development work of Abba Road from Five Lights Circle to Hyder Ali Road into a six-lane road. MCC has taken permission from the Government to use the land in the Government Guest House premises for development.

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ನಿಧನ

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